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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/694,569	10/23/2000	Jens Hieronymus	A-2577	9800

7590 01/08/2004

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EXAMINER

YAN, REN LUO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2854

DATE MAILED: 01/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/694,569

Applicant(s)

HIERONYMUS ET AL.

Examiner

Ren L Yan

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NW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7, 10 and 11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 8 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schild et al(5,370,051) in view of Kunkel et al(4,707,902) and Berg(3,384,014). The patent to Schild et al teaches the method of aligning a printing plate onto a cylinder as claimed including providing the leading edges of the printing plate 5 with U-shaped cut-outs 5.1 and bringing the U-shaped cut-outs into contact with the register pins or stops 7 of a clamping device 3 fixedly mounted on the cylinder. See Figs. 1 and 2 in Schild et al for details. However, the printing plate of Schild et al may not be a rubber blanket. Kunkel et al teaches a mechanism for accurate register alignment of a rubber blanket 26 having U-shaped notches onto a blanket or plate cylinder 2. See Figs. 2, 6 and 9, and column 2, lines 37 to column 3, line 6 in Kunkel et al for example. In view of the teaching of Kunkel et al, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the printing plate register alignment method to a rubber blanket as well since a rubber blanket is of the same form or shape as an ordinary printing plate so as to facilitate both the rubber blanket and printing plate register alignment process. Schild et al, as modified by Kunkel et al does not show the use of clamping bar attached to the rubber blanket. The patent to Berg teaches the structure and method of attaching a rubber blanket onto a clamping device of a cylinder including a rubber blanket 19 equipped with a clamping bar 22 having register cut-outs 30 and a clamping device 16 having bolts 31 attached to the cylinder body. The bolts 31 of the clamping

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device 16 serves to clamp the rubber blanket 19 onto the cylinder as well as to serve as register pins to properly register the position of the rubber blanket 19 when they are in engagement with the cut-outs 30 in the clamping bar 22. See the entire Berg parent for example. In view of the teaching of Berg, it would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art to provide the blanket of Schild et al, as modified by Kunkel et al with clamping bars having U-shaped notches appropriately disposed to be engaged with clamping device on the cylinder so as to facilitate the replacement of the blanket by sliding the blanket relative to the clamping bars.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berg(3,384,014) in view of Kunkel et al(4,707,902). The patent to Berg teaches the structure of an assembly for attaching a rubber blanket onto a clamping device of a cylinder including a rubber blanket 19 equipped with a clamping bar 22 having register cut-outs 30 and a clamping device 16 having bolts 31 attached to the cylinder body. The bolts 31 of the clamping device 16 serves to clamp the rubber blanket 19 onto the cylinder by gripping only the clamping bar 22 as well as to serve as register pins to properly register the position of the rubber blanket 19 when they are in engagement with the cut-outs 30 in the clamping bar 22. See the entire Berg parent for example. However, the cut-outs 30 of Berg are circular rather than U-shaped as recited. Kunkel et al teaches a mechanism for accurate register alignment of a rubber blanket 26 having U-shaped cut-outs 14 and 15 to be engaged with register pins 12 and 13 onto a blanket or plate cylinder 2. See Figs. 2, 5, 6 and 9, and column 2, lines 37 to column 3, line 6 in Kunkel et al for example. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the clamping bar of Berg with u-shaped cut-outs as taught by Kunkel et al in order to speed up the rubber blanket

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registration process since the u-shaped cut-outs would more easily engage the register pins than circular openings.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kowalczyk et al(5,094,164) in view of Kunkel et al. The patent to Kowalczyk et al teaches a register system as claimed including a flexographic printing plate 9 with substantially u-shaped register cut-outs 18 formed therein. The flexographic printing plate 9 is then accurately attached to a rubber blanket cylinder by engaging the u-shaped register cut-outs 18 with register pins 20 on the rubber blanket cylinder. Kowalczyk et al specifically teaches on column 3, lines 10-13 that film mountings for flexographic and offset plates can thus be made identical in size so as to ensure that the leading edge of the plate can be maintained precisely. See also Figs. 1 and 3 in Kowalczyk et al. It is a known fact that a rubber blanket cylinder ordinarily has a rubber blanket attached thereon to carry out offset printing. In Kowalczyk et al, a flexographic printing plate is attached to the rubber blanket cylinder to carry out a varnishing operation after offset printing. Therefore, it is apparent to those having ordinary skill in the art that a rubber blanket used in offset printing is removed from the rubber blanket cylinder prior to the flexographic printing plate being mounted on the same cylinder. Since Kowalczyk et al teach to provide identical film mountings for flexographic and offset plates for the disclosed advantages, it is reasonable to assume that the rubber blanket used in offset printing has the same u-shaped register cut-outs as that of the flexographic printing plate to facilitate accurate registration of the printing plates on the rubber blanket cylinder even though Kowalczyk et al do not show such a rubber blanket. In order for the rejection to be complete, the patent to Kunkel et al is applied to show that a rubber blanket 26 having U-shaped cut-outs 14 and 15 to be engaged with register pins 12 and 13 onto a

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blanket or plate cylinder 2 is conventionally used to facilitate accurate registration of the blanket with the blanket cylinder. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the register system of Kowalczyk et al with a rubber blanket having u-shaped cut-outs corresponding to the cut-outs of the flexographic printing plate to facilitate accurate registration of the blanket and the printing plate with respect to the rubber blanket cylinder since both the blanket and the printing plate are to be mounted onto the same cylinder.

Claims 2-7, 10 and 11 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ren L Yan whose telephone number is 703-308-0978. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on 703-305-6619. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



Ren L Yan  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2854

Ren Yan  
January 7, 2004